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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q75737

Jean-Pierre BONICEL

Appln. No.: 10/611,946

Group Art Unit: 2883

Confirmation No.: 5418

Examiner: Eric K. WONG

Filed: July 3, 2003

For: CABLE HAVING A SUBSTANTIALLY GASTIGHT METAL TUBE RECEIVING AT LEAST ONE OPTICAL CONDUCTOR AND A HYDROGEN-ABSORBENT SUBSTANCE

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 11, 2005, please reconsider the above-identified application as follows. Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-13 are withdrawn from consideration.

35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 14-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Secco et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,741,592 [hereafter "Secco"]).

Applicant respectfully submits that the features of claims 14-17 and 19 are not disclosed by Secco. For example, the method defined by claims 14 and 15 comprises multiple, subsequent operations. The first operation includes covering an inside surface of a strip of metal with a catalyst substance. It is respectfully submitted that the abstract of Secco does not disclose this

feature, nor does the remainder of Secco's disclosure. Secco instead discloses a hydrogen-absorbent composition disposed inside of a tube for protecting optical fibers, but does not disclose a *metal strip* being covered by a catalyst substance.

Further, the operation of claims 14 and 15, including forming the strip of metal in a shape of a tube, is not disclosed by Figure 5 of Secco, nor any other part of this reference. For example, column 10, lines 21, 22 of Secco discloses the use of a plastic or metallic tube, but there is no disclosure of *forming a strip into a shape of a tube*, as recited in claims 14 and 15.

Moreover, a further operation of claim 14 includes swaging the formed tube after it has been welded. Claim 15 recites forming the strip of metal in a shape of a tube, by mutually overlapping longitudinal margins of the strip of metal and gluing the overlapping margins. These features are also not disclosed by Secco. In particular, Secco does not disclose a strip that can be formed into a tube and therefore does not disclose the recited welding or swaging of the tube, as in claim 14, or the overlapping longitudinal margin aspects of claim 15, including the gluing of the overlapping margins.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Secco does not disclose the features of claims 14 and 15, such that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn. The rejection of dependent claims 16, 17 and 19 should also be withdrawn at least due to these claims respectively depending from claims 14 and 15.

35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Secco in view of Gould et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,504,112 [hereafter "Gould"]).

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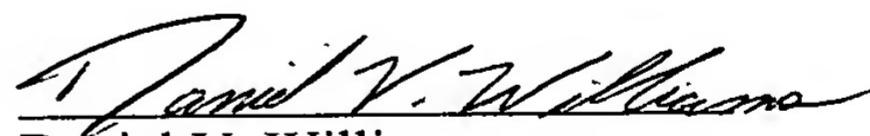
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Applicant respectfully submits that the features of claims 18 and 19 are not taught or suggested by Secco and Gould. As noted above, Secco does not disclose each feature recited in claims 14 and 15. The application of Gould for teaching a hermetically sealed optical fiber also does not teach or suggest each of the claimed features. Therefore, the combination of Secco and Gould does not teach or suggest the features of claims 14 and 15, such that claims 18 and 20 are patentable over the references at least due to their respective dependencies on claims 14 and 15.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE
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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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